CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A digital watermarking system, comprising:

a mobile device comprising an image capture sub-system for generating digital data representing an image from one or more desired vantage points;

input information comprising at least one piece of evanescent information; and,

a data processor for processing the digital data, where the data processor derives digital watermarking data from a digital watermarking algorithm and input information and the processor incorporates the digital watermarking data into the digital data to produce a digitally watermarked image.

2.   A system as in claim 1, further comprising a wireless link for transmitting from the device to a remote data processor at least one of the digital data, the input information and the digitally watermarked image.

3.   A system as in claim 2, where the digital data is received through the wireless link from a data communications network for storage within the mobile device.

4.   A system as in claim 3, where the data communications network comprises the Internet.

5.   A system as in claim 2, where the wireless link comprises an interface to a remote data processor that is reachable through the Internet.

6.   A system as in claim 5, where the data processor that processes the digital data comprises the remote data processor.

7.   A system as in claim 1, wherein the evanescent information comprises at least one of location information, biometric information, meteorological information, temporal information, custodial information, financial information, criminal information, civil information, physical attribute information, and travel information.

8.   A system as in claim 7, wherein the travel information comprises at least one of point of origin, destination, citizenship and identity of traveling companions.

9.   A system as in claim 7, wherein the biometric information comprises at least one of hand geometry data, facial recognition data, retinal scan data, iris scan data, fingerprint data, and voice data.

10.   A system as in claim 7, wherein the location information comprises at least one of geographic coordinates, a relative bearing, a relative distance and an elevation.

11.   A system as in claim 1, wherein the mobile device comprises a device that is one of hand-held and vehicle mounted.

12.   An imaging system, comprising:

         a mobile imaging device for creating a digital image of a subject, the device comprising a location determination system and a processor for digital watermarking the digital image with at least location information received from the location determination system.

13.   An imaging system as in claim 12, wherein the location information comprises at least one of longitude, latitude, elevation, relative bearing, and relative distance.

14.   An imaging system as in claim 12, wherein the location determination system comprises at least one of a global positioning system (GPS) receiver, cellular location determining equipment, relative location equipment, a distance measuring equipment (DME) and an inclinometer.

15.   An imaging system, comprising:

         a mobile imaging device for creating a digital image of a subject, the device comprising a biometric data input mechanism and a processor for digital watermarking the digital image with at least biometric data received from the input mechanism.

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16. An imaging system as in claim 15, wherein the biometric data comprises at least one of hand geometry data, facial recognition data, retinal scan data, iris scan data, fingerprint data, and voice data.

17. An imaging system as in claim 15, wherein the biometric data comprises at least one of height, weight and hair color.

18. A method for digitally watermarking a digital image, the method comprising:

generating digital data representing an image from one or more desired vantage points using a mobile device comprising a image capture sub-system;

obtaining evanescent information as at least one input information for a digital watermarking algorithm;

inputting the input information into the digital watermarking algorithm to produce digital watermarking data; and,

processing the digital data to include the digital watermarking data to produce a digitally watermarked image.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein the processing is completed by a remote data processor.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein the obtaining comprises at least one of operating a biometric data input mechanism, operating a location determination system, operating a range finder, operating an inclinometer, querying a system clock, querying financial records, and interrogating a subject of the image.

21. A method as in claim 18, wherein processing the digital data comprises using a discrete cosine transform process.

22. A method as in claim 18, wherein processing the digital data comprises using a pixel modification process.

23. A method as in claim 18, wherein processing the digital data comprises using a digital signature hash function.

24.   A method for digitally watermarking a series of digital images, the method comprising:

using a mobile device comprising an image capture sub-system, producing a series of digital data sets, each set representing a digital image;

obtaining evanescent information pertaining to the series as at least one piece of input information for a digital watermarking algorithm;

inputting the input information into the digital watermarking algorithm to produce digital watermarking data; and,

processing at least one set of digital data to include the digital watermarking data to produce a digitally watermarked image.